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Le mécanisme cérébral de la pensée. Par N. KOSTYLEFF. Paris, Félix Alcan, 1914.—pp. 313.

This book is written from the viewpoint of the Russian school of objective psychology. The author is particularly interested in applying his method to the study of the creative imagination, and what gives his book especial interest and value is the way in which he has succeeded in relating his own point of view to those of the Würzburg school and the Freudians, as well as the Russian school of Pawlow and Bechterew.

The Pawlow researches into the salivary reflex, valuable as they are as investigations, appear to the author to be conceived in too narrow a spirit to exercise a real influence upon the development of psychology. Bechterew has the advantage of coming to his task with an adequate psychological background, and it is as an indispensable complement to Bechterew's objective psychology that Kostyleff regards his own work. The investigations of the Würzburg school, especially of Watt, Messer, and Bühler, are examined with critical appreciation, for the author, whose method is not theirs, is anxious to follow them into their field by applying his own method to the higher mental processes. Freud and his adepts are given abundant attention throughout the book: to their treatment of the unconscious, the mechanism of dreams, and the mechanism of the imagination are devoted separate chapters embracing over a third of the book. While recognizing the importance, from his own 'objective' point of view, of Freud's emphasis upon the sensorial in dealing with dreams and other related phenomena, Kostyleff is not slow to point out the psychoanalyst's undue preoccupation with the sexual and his occasionally fantastic streak.

The author reports the results of his personal study of several contemporary French poets: Edmond Haracourt, Fernand Gregh, Count Robert de Montesquiou, Abel Bonnard, and Countess Mathieu de Noailles. He asks them about the history of their poetic imagination, their present manner of work, and what they understand by inspiration. The results are various. In addition to the remarks, sometimes enlightening, in which the poets describe their own activity, special interest attaches to the several examples of the genesis of their poems, illustrating as they do the mechanism of poetic construction. In the *American Journal of Psychology* for 1914 the present reviewer advocated, as an experimental method of dealing with the processes of poetic construction, the analysis of the original manuscripts of poems, revealing in the order of first drafts, erasures, corrections, and additions the characteristic stream of the poetic consciousness. He is confirmed in his belief in the value of this method by the analyzed first drafts which Kostyleff cites in his book and by the psychological interpretation, in a separate chapter, of Berret's literary study of the sources, documentation, and manner of composition of Victor Hugo's *Légende des siècles*. Kostyleff points to two sources of poetic inspiration: the sensibility of the poet and the preformed mechanism of verbal reactions. It is this latter capacity which characterizes the *vers souverains* of a true poet, produced by a faculty of storing verbal reactions and grouping them in an original way.

The latter part of the book is devoted to a study of the novelist's imagination. After an examination of the suggestive and the fantastic elements in the Freudian 'Oedipus complex,' the author applies himself to a more direct examination of the work of several contemporary French novelists: Mme. Marcelle Tinayre, J. H. Rosny, and Paul Adam. One may reflect upon the caliber of the writers selected for analysis, or upon Kostyleff's view of the greatest mystery of novelistic genius: his rare ability to identify himself with his characters to the extent of acquiring their manner of thought and speech. But Kostyleff's conclusion, which is also a criticism of the Freudians, is significant. It is not from dreams or from the subconscious that the novelist must expect the subject of his novel: life itself provides him with more direct and more various motives. The novelist's genius involves a brain richly endowed in sensorial and verbal reactions. In some cases this endowment is unlimited; moreover the central complex of reflexes can so alter itself in certain conditions as to create another individuality. Of the formation of this complex we know little. Perhaps it allows of experimental study, of inquiry into the organic factors acting on the mechanism of cerebral reflexes. These questions the author reserves for future work.

The reader will find in this volume many stimulating questions and some stimulating answers touching the problem of the psychology of imagination. These, together with the concise reviews it contains of the Russian, Würzburg, and Freudian work, should make Kostyleff's book valuable, whether one is or is not prepared to follow him the whole way in his 'objective' method.

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The following books also have been received:

- Development of Personality.* By BROTHER CHRYSOSTOM, F.S.C. Philadelphia, John Joseph McVey, 1916.—pp. xxv, 379.
- The Validity of the Religious Experience.* By GEORGE A. BARROW. Boston, Sherman, French, and Co., 1917.—pp. xi, 247.
- Hindu Mind Training.* By AN ANGLO-SAXON MOTHER. London, Longmans, Green and Co., 1917.—pp. xxiv, 536.
- Causation and Belief.* By CHARLES A. MERCIER. London, Longmans, Green and Co., 1916.—pp. viii, 228.
- Mens Creatrix.* By WILLIAM TEMPLE. London, Macmillan and Co., 1917.—pp. xiii, 367.
- A Scale of Performance Tests.* By RUDOLF PINTNER and DONALD G. PATERSON. New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1917.—pp. ix, 217.
- An Introduction to Political Philosophy.* By H. P. FARRELL. London, Longmans, Green and Co., 1917.—pp. vii, 220.
- Ephod and Ark. Harvard Theological Studies, III.* By WILLIAM R. ARNOLD. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1917.—pp. 170.
- Etudes de Philosophie Morale.* Par CHARLES WERNER. Genève, Librairie Kundig, 1917.—pp. 248.
- Neo-Vedantic Sufeism. Book I.* By ABDUL ALI. Calcutta, Mohes Press, 1917.—pp. iv, 89.